

In the Claims

1. (AMENDED) A method of disseminating information by a first end terminal in a network having a plurality of end terminals operating as distributed servers when performing the disseminating information, said method being performed by said first end terminal and said method comprising:

receiving information from an information source;

validating said information;

storing said validated information; and

automatically forwarding said validated information from said first terminal to a second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals over a communication channel established between said first and said second end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further including receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second end terminal.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further including informing said information source that said information has been successfully disseminated.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, further including receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said information.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein validating said information includes validating said information using a verification key provided by a certification authority.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 5, wherein said verification key is a public key.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said method is performed by a validated first end terminal.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said first end terminal is validated using a root key.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein said information is forwarded over said established communication channel as a piggyback in a frame.

10. (Original) A method according to Claim 9, wherein said information is contained in a data field of said frame.

11. (AMENDED) A method of disseminating information by a first end terminal in a network having a plurality of end terminals operating as distributed servers when performing the disseminating information, said method being performed by said first end terminal and said method comprising:

receiving information from an information source;

validating said information;

storing said -validated information;

detecting establishment of a communication channel between said first end terminal and a second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information; and

automatically forwarding validated information to said second end terminal over said established communication channel.

12. (Original) A method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second end terminal; and

informing said information source that said information is successfully disseminated.

13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said information.

14. (AMENDED) A method of disseminating information over a network having a plurality of end terminals operating as distributed servers when performing the disseminating information, said method comprising:

    sending information from an information source to at least one end terminal, wherein said at least one end terminal validates said information and forwards said information via a piggyback in a frame when a channel is established between said at least one end terminal and another end terminal for a purpose other than dissemination of information.

15. (Deleted).

16. (Deleted).

17. (Deleted).